

WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1949

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and SURVEYOR

and the

Report of the

WATER ENGINEER

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STAFF.*Medical Officer of Health :*

J. C. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. EAGLE, Cert. S.I.B., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.,
Cert. R.S.I., as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. RAMM, M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

District Water Engineer :

E. HAYMAN.

Assistant to Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector :

L. H. DOUGHTY.

(Seconded to Government Training Course for
Sanitary Inspectors).

Clerical Assistant :

L. C. DAVEY.
(1.4.49 to 31.12.49).

Temporary Clerical Assistants :

W. T. THORNTON.
(1.1.49 to 15.2.49).

J. E. TAYLOR.
(5.1.49 to 14.11.49).

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :

D. HUNN.
(1.1.49 to 30.9.49).

MISS M. HEWITT.
(1.10.49 to 31.12.49).

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Local Health Office,
The Rectory, Church Street,
Wells-next-the-Sea. Norfolk.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Introduction.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1949. I have followed the procedure of previous years in asking the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer to submit reports in their names rather than incorporating them in my report.

Whilst retaining the same sections in this report I have only surveyed the existing Health Services giving alterations from last year. These services are outside the Council's direct control but it is my responsibility to report on anything affecting the health of the district.

I cannot agree with the Senior Sanitary Inspector that it has been an uneventful year. It has certainly been disappointing, in that little visible progress has been made in the Regional Water and Sewerage Schemes, and on the sanitary side the control of Cow sheds has been lost. To offset these, however, my powers in the control of milk borne infections have been materially increased.

Model Bye-laws for clean food handling have been approved by the Council, and more interest has been taken in the prevention of Tuberculosis. In addition the machinery has been set up to try to reduce the number of accidents in the home. All these are the foundations for future work, otherwise the year has been a quiet one.

There are several items in my report to which I would like to draw your special attention. Firstly, the very excellent report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector on the completion of the Hobhouse Survey. Secondly, the investigations into a case of Abortus Fever, and thirdly and probably the most important of all, the complete lack of beds for maternity cases in the District.

I would like to express my appreciation of the support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the constant sound advice and co-operation of the Clerk and the continued support and loyalty of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Water Engineer and Members of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Your Obedient Servant,

J. C. JOHNSTON,

To the Chairman and Members of the Walsingham Rural District Council. *Medical Officer of Health.*

PART 1.

(General Report of the Medical Officer of Health).

1. STAFF.

The deliberations of the County Council on the question of my clerical staff continued during the year. In August, this Council was informed that the County Council could not agree to their contributing 50% of this Clerk's salary. Following this a Joint Sub-Committee of members from Walsingham and Docking R.D.C's. and Wells U.D.C. recommended to their Councils that a Junior Clerk in the General Division should be appointed as from the 1st October. This recommendation was accepted by all three Councils and the post duly advertised. The successful candidate, Miss M. Hewitt, was appointed and commenced duties on 1st October, 1949, being located at the Local Health Office, Wells.

During the year Mr. L. H. Doughty was seconded to the Government Training Course for Sanitary Inspectors.

Mr. W. T. Thornton left on 15.3.49 and Mr. J. E. Taylor was appointed on 5.1.49.

In April Mr. L. C. Davey was appointed as Clerical Assistant.

Mr. J. E. Taylor left on 14.11.49 to take up an appointment with the Colonial Office.

2. INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

(a) **General.** I would draw your attention to the low incidence of Measles during the year. This is probably due to the exceptionally good weather which prevailed.

(b) **Abortus Fever.** The incidence of this disease has worried me for some time. As it is not a legally notifiable disease, incidence figures are not available. The infectivity rate is supposed to be small, but in my opinion many cases occur which are not seen by the family doctor. On the other side, the incidence of infection in cattle is reputed to be high, but again, no definite figures are available.

Because of my concern I wrote to all General Practitioners in my area, asking to be advised of any case of suspected Abortus Fever. Following this letter, one case was reported and action was taken under the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, which came into operation on 1.10.49 (See Section 7).

The results of this investigation are important. The patient had been ill for only three weeks when I was informed and because of this comparatively early notification, it was possible to trace and sample the offending milk.

This was a bulk supply and at the Senior Sanitary Inspector's request the Norfolk County Council carried out eighteen investigations. The result of these samples showed that two dairies had *Brucella Abortus* in the milk. One of these dairies sold the milk after pasteurisation and therefore was not the cause of the infection, and this fortunately reduced the potential source of danger to one herd. The Senior Sanitary Inspector interviewed the owner of the herd, who agreed to have his milk pasteurised until investigations were completed. The Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was also asked to investigate the matter, and his report showed that there was a history of abortion in the herd and his sampling of the cows in groups, showed the germ to be present in three groups, and three out of four cows sampled individually were also positive.

Following this investigation, I asked the Divisional Veterinary Inspector to take individual samples of the doubtful groups and this produced a further number of cows with *Brucella Abortus*.

On completion of the investigation the Senior Sanitary Inspector and I contacted the owner, and he agreed to isolate the cows in question, some nine in all, until either he or his Veterinary Surgeon was satisfied that they were no longer infected. On receipt of his notification to this effect sampling would be arranged before these cows were allowed to return to the main herd. He also agreed meanwhile to have the milk from these nine cows pasteurised and to apply the same restriction to all cows dry at the time of the investigation. In consequence the milk in the main herd did not require to be pasteurised.

This investigation was of particular interest as it made possible the isolation of a definite source of infection, and with the co-operation of the owner of the herd we were able to put into operation a means of sealing off this infection. The investigations indicate that positive results may be obtained from early notification, and points to the desirability of having legal notification of the disease in this District.

(c) **Influenzal Pneumonia.** There was an interesting outbreak of infection in Stibbard. On the 17th October, 1949, an elderly man was taken ill with a potential pneumonia complicated by a Cardiac attack. Forty-eight hours later his wife also developed the same chest signs. In another forty-eight hours the woman who assisted in the home was also taken ill, and twenty-four hours after that the married daughter who had also helped in the home. All four cases showed the same chest signs of pneumonia.

I was asked to investigate and all four cases were checked for *Pneumococci* and *Streptococci*, the common infective organisms of

pneumonia, but none of these were present; Tuberculosis was also eliminated.

The last case was still acute when I saw her, and Laboratory samples were submitted for a virus investigation. This also gave a negative result. All the cases responded to Penicillin and no further cases occurred in any contacts.

Despite the bacteriological results and the response to Penicillin this was undoubtedly an outbreak of influenzal pneumonia.

(d) **Cysticercus Bovis.** Cysticercus Bovis is the Cyst form of a tape worm infestation (Taenia Saginata). This worm is usually found in its adult form in human beings and the segments are discharged in the faeces, these infect pasture land and are digested by cattle forming their cyst in the cattle. If these cysts are eaten by human beings while viable, they hatch out into Tape worms and give rise to human Tape worm infestation.

Two carcasses from this area which were inspected at the Watford Slaughter House, were found to have Cysts present. Both cases were thoroughly investigated, and although a case of Taeniasis was known near one source, no definite connection could be established.

(e) **Tuberculosis.** During the year the following new cases were notified :—

		<i>Case Rate per 1000 Population</i>		
6	Respiratory	...	...	.33
1	Non-Respiratory	...	...	.05

Corresponding Figures for whole County—

		<i>Case Rate per 1000 Population</i>		
161	Respiratory	...	...	.45
80	Non-Respiratory	...	...	.23

The following cases were removed :—

35 Respiratory and 38 Non-Respiratory.

The position at 31.12.49 compared with 31.12.48 was :

Respiratory	...	44	...	73
Non-Respiratory	...	10	...	47
		—		—
		54		120
		—		—

I had reason to believe that my register was by no means accurate and much time was spent during the year to ensure that information contained in it coincided with that in the Master Register held by the Norfolk County Council. On submission of a list of such possible errors the result was that many cases were

struck off my register. The figures as at 31st December are now accurate, but the deletions made are not a true record of recovery rate from the disease, but in the main, corrections to the register.

Confirmation of my fears as to the inaccuracy of my registers, the continued responsibility of this authority for the control of Tuberculosis under Section 12 of the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930, together with the acute housing shortage made it apparent to me, that the information available concerning cases in my district was totally inadequate, particularly as my advice is sought by the Council in the rehousing of such persons.

In the light of these facts I discussed the matter with my colleagues in the other County Districts and it was clear that they too were in very much the same position. Discussions have since taken place in an endeavour to introduce a standard form of card index register, as well as an approach being made to the Regional Hospital Board and County Medical Officer for more information than is at present available, and I hope the position will improve in 1950.

3. **CANCER.**

During the year the incidence of deaths from cancer was 34 as compared with the same number in 1948 (See Part III).

4. **SEWAGE.**

(a) **War Department Plant—Stiffkey Camp.** In April the Deputy Assistant Director of Hygiene for the East Anglian Area called to see me to explain a proposed installation for sewage in the new camp at Stiffkey W.D. Camp. He asked for my observations and suggested that I should visit the camp. On the 27th June accompanied by the Senior Sanitary Inspector I did so, and discussed the plan with the Garrison Engineer and the C.R.E.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector and I had no comments on the new installation, apart from suggesting that the present crude sewage discharged from the existing camp should be pumped into new tanks and through a proper system of disposal. This recommendation was made in an effort to control the discharge of sewage along the coast with its consequent adverse effect upon the local Shellfish Industry.

I have received confirmation from the C.R.E. and the Deputy Assistant Director of Hygiene that every effort will be made to do as suggested in the later stage of building.

I would like to express my appreciation of the help given by the War Department Officers concerned.

(b) **Sculthorpe Aerodrome.** The discharge of effluent from this R.A.F. Camp into the seasonal portion of the river Tatt is still most unsatisfactory. The smell from this area during the hot weather following the ponding of the effluent was most unpleasant, and I hope that in the very near future the Royal Air Force will take some steps to control this nuisance.

(c) **Morston Council Houses.** The position here is still most unsatisfactory, and will never be corrected until a disposal works is available. Proposals to sewer these houses in a scheme for Blakeney village would solve the problem.

(d) **Regional Sewage Schemes.**

(i) **Fakenham and Hempton.** The position in the town gets steadily worse and the control of the Council's Cesspools at Hempton is a constant source of trouble to the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Plans for this scheme are still awaiting approval by the Ministry of Health.

(ii) **Walsingham.** This other urgent scheme is still at the approval stage, meanwhile the existing Creak works continues to deteriorate.

(iii) **Blakeney.** This suggested scheme is now under consideration, and is one of the more urgent sewage problems. This village has a piped water supply and very little means of getting rid of waste water. The crude sewage outside the Blakeney Hotel and the normal discharge of this into the quay are not pleasant. It is hoped that the village will be dealt with in the very near future.

5. HOUSING.

(a) **General.** This has been dealt with in detail in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

(b) **Hobhouse Survey.** This report is included in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report, and he is to be congratulated on completing the survey, and on the good report submitted.

(c) **Housing Act, 1949.** This new Act is now in force and it does bring into operation several new factors :—

(i) Powers whereby certain demolition orders can be revoked inside the first year of the Act.

(ii) Grants for building.

(iii) Grants for structural improvements.

This last factor is the one which affects this Department. The Minister has laid down a minimum standard to which houses must attain to rank for grant. This standard is extremely high for a Rural Community (see Appendix) but it has a proviso that in any

particular case special permission can be requested from the Minister to omit one or more of these standards. I believe that the Minister is correct in setting a high standard for the Country as a whole and where necessary relaxing it, rather than having a lower standard throughout.

(d) **Re-housing.** This Department has continued to make detailed reports to the Estates Management Sub-Committee on cases found to have medical and sanitary factors.

At least one member of the Department has been present at all housing allocations. Towards the end of the year the Council adopted a new system of points, allowing for sanitary and medical factors, and this will come into force in the New Year. This should make the reporting of these cases much easier in the future.

In November I attended a District Medical Officers of Health Conference where medical re-housing was discussed and I do not think any of the other Districts had a better system of reporting on these cases.

In all 138 cases were investigated and found to have medical and sanitary factors. 51 of these were re-housed out of a total 58 tenants selected.

The following are the figures showing recommendations, giving Parishes, in 1949. This gives the Council an idea of the state of housing need in the district.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Houses to be let.</i>	<i>Total recommended by M.O.H. & S.S.I.</i>	<i>Total let as recommended by M.O.H. & S.S.I.</i>
Great Snoring	8	21	6
Fakenham	9	34	9
Walsingham	1	1	1
Swanton Novers	10	10	8
Binham	12	14	10
Little Snoring	1	4	1
Barney	1	5	1
East Barsham	13	23	12
Sculthorpe	1	9	1
Briston	1	8	1
Melton Constable	1	9	1
	58	138	51

6. WATER.

(a) **Piped Supplies.** The Water Engineer has submitted a full report on the present situation. The main points of interest being :—

(i) The acquisition by the Council of the piped supply in Blakeney.

(ii) The Analysis reports showing a good sample of water for Fakenham.

(b) **Regional Water Supply.** This is well under way administratively and it is hoped that work will commence next year. The hot summer and resultant drought has made this all the more imperative.

(c) **Wells.** In general these still remain most unsatisfactory, and I will be most relieved to have a regional supply and be able to get off the unexploded mine on which we are now standing.

7. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

These regulations take away certain duties previously done by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in relation to the control of cowsheds, but have increased my powers in that I may stop a milk supply on evidence of suspicion that the milk is infected with a disease communicable to man.

8. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year 16 inspections were made and defects were found in 4 cases; in those 4 cases were remedied.

There were two outworkers visited under Part 8 of the Factories Act.

9. SHELLFISH.

The meeting of the Joint Committee mentioned in my last Annual Report was held in January, and all the bodies mentioned therein were invited to attend. Each body appointed a representative apart from the Norfolk County Council who asked that I should represent them.

Following this meeting two resolutions were made :—

- (a) that the local members felt that local tanks would be more efficacious than the proposed Central Tank in Lynn and asked the Eastern Sea Fisheries to reconsider their proposals in this connection.
- (b) The Eastern Sea Fisheries were also asked to investigate the possibility of using running sea water for cleansing in place of tanks. The Eastern Sea Fisheries representative agreed to bring this up at the next meeting of his Committee.

This is still the position and it was proposed to call a meeting of the Joint Committee again in December this year to see what was happening in the matter. On the suggestion of the Eastern Sea Fisheries Officer, however, this was postponed as his Committee was awaiting a decision of the Ministry on the experimental tank to be set up at King's Lynn.

As you will therefore see the position is no further advanced than last year and it is to be hoped that 1950 will see more action although in view of the reduction in the national expenditure, this is doubtful.

10. ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME.

Last year I reported that the Local Voluntary Home Safety Committee was to be formed. This was set up in March after a public meeting which was addressed by Mrs. Duncan, The Manager of the Home Safety Department of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

This Committee really got to work during the year and began to give lectures during the winter months, some dozen or more being given to the Women's Institutes and other bodies.

A one day course was also held for potential lecturers and a panel of lecturers set up. Later in the year a window display was held in Fakenham.

This Committee being a voluntary committee is dependant upon public subscriptions and I feel that the work is very important although details thereof are still not widely known. The Council have given every assistance to the Committee and I hope will continue to do so.

The Council continue to send a Home Safety leaflet to parents of all newly-born children.

11. FOOD HYGIENE.

The Ministry issued a suggested Model Bye-law for Clean Food handling. This is a suggestion which I have felt has been necessary for a very long time, and these Bye-laws, which I am pleased to say the Council are adopting, will give the Public Health Department a very great increase in their power to control conditions at these premises. It covers the hygiene of persons handling or wrapping food, the state of premises where food is handled or wrapped, and also premises where food is prepared for sale. This means that all shops which sell any food stuffs, restaurants and public houses, now come under the regulations. It will mean a very great increase in the amount of work carried out by this Department and will more than outweigh any slight amelioration brought about by the Milk and Dairies Regulations in the loss of supervision of Cow sheds.

I do believe that this is one of the biggest advances that has been made for a very long time, and I hope that these Bye-laws will become law quickly.

12. ICE CREAM.

It would appear from the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector that we have been fairly fortunate in obtaining the co-operation of Ice Cream Vendors in ensuring that Ice Cream is handled as hygienically as possible.

13. CONCLUSION.

This again has been a busy year, there have been many changes in legislation which have opened up new avenues for investigation. The Regional Schemes have still occupied a great deal of time in dealing with administrative problems. The machinery for dealing with the Shellfish problem has been set up. The Committee set up to deal with the prevention of accidents in the home is working satisfactorily.

There is no doubt that the new Milk and Dairies Regulations will give more scope for concrete and effective control in the providing of a clean milk supply.

PART II.

(General Medical Information).

1. GENERAL.

For the past two years, I have reported details of the Medical Services available in the area other than in connection with Public Health work. Last year I showed the position under the National Health Service Act, and therefore all that I am quoting in this report are changes which have occurred since that report. The information given is at the time of going to press and not as at 31st December, 1949.

Now that the National Health Act has been in operation for some time, I think it is fair to say that from the point of view of the Public generally it is working well. There is, however, no doubt that having parts of the service controlled by three separate bodies, the tendency is for each to work on its own lines, making it difficult for local officers to co-operate. The Tuberculosis Service appears to be the most divided, and different authorities are responsible for the three divisions of the Service. Locally, however, every effort is being made to co-ordinate the three services, but this is often not easy due to the various regulations produced by each of the three controlling authorities.

There are of course silly idiosyncrasies which time will no doubt erase. For example, a General Practitioner may authorise a special corset if the patient is prepared to pay for it, but to receive a similar corset under the Act, it is necessary for a fully qualified hospital specialist to authorise same.

Finally, there are certain points to which I should like to draw your particular attention. There is in this area a complete lack of maternity beds, though it is possible to say that the position has been slightly improved by the opening of Long Acre Maternity Home for the use of General Practitioners to attend their own maternity patients. However, it seems to me likely that on many occasions the doctor would probably arrive after the birth due to the distance involved.

In my first report to you, I emphasised the fact that I considered this area was in need of maternity beds, and this need has in no whit diminished in the past two years. The only hospital in the area, the Wells Cottage Hospital, has for a considerable time been running at a complement of three beds either male or female, but not both. In my opinion this hospital would make a far better Maternity Unit and be of far greater benefit to the area than it is at present as a General Hospital.

I believe the new Nurses' Home is being built and also a new Physiotherapy Department, and this will release another ward of three beds. Even if it were not feasible to turn this into a Maternity Hospital, it would surely be possible to have one or two maternity beds available in the old staff rooms. This is a fact to which I should like the Council to give their earnest consideration.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

(a) **General.** The list of Hospitals is unchanged but the Cromer Hospital now has an Outpatients Clinic at which a full range of Specialist Consultants attend.

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) District Nurses.

- (i) Nurse Prickett, The Street, Thornage :—
Swanton Novers, Melton Constable Park, Hindolvestone, Melton Constable Burgh, Thurning, Briston.
- (ii) Nurse Boyce, Glebe Farm, Sculthorpe :—
Gt. and Lt. Ryburgh, Stibbard, Fulmodestone, Penshorpe, Kettlestone, Gately.
- (iii) Nurse Green, Creake Road, Sculthorpe :—
Pudding Norton, Dunton, Tattersett, Sculthorpe, Shereford, Tatterford, Doughton, Toftrees.

4. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

Medical Loan Depots are located as follows and serve surrounding villages :—

- (a) Fakenham—Miss Priest, c/o Holton, Ltd., Bridge Street, Fakenham.

- (b) Fulmodestone—Mrs. Bartlett, The Rectory.
- (c) Hindringham—Mrs. Sands, Knoll Corner.
- (d) Walsingham—Mrs. Little, The Grange, Walsingham.

5. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) Infant Welfare Centres.

- (i) Fakenham—Church Hall. (Held 1st and 3rd Thursday and 2nd Wednesday each month).
- (ii) Melton Constable—Railway Institute. (Held 1st Wednesday each month).

Both these centres are attended by a member of the County Council Medical Staff.

(b) School Nurses/Health Visitors.

Miss L. B. Steele, The Rectory, Gayton, for the following schools:—

Binham, Blakeney, Field Dalling, Holkham, Langham, Stiffkey, Wighton.

Mrs. Quayle, 1, The Drift, Heacham, for the remaining schools in the Walsingham R.D.C. area.

(c) Tuberculosis.

- (i) Dr. G. F. Barran, T.B. Dispensary, King's Lynn Hospital.
- (ii) Chest Clinic at Fakenham. (Held 3rd Monday each month).

(d) **Home Help Service.** Home Helps are now available in following places:—

E. Barsham	Hempton	W. Raynham	Stibbard
Blakeney	Hindolvestone	Lt. Ryburgh	Stiffkey
Briston	Hindringham	Sharrington	Swanton Novers
Fakenham	Melton Constable	Gt. Snoring	Walsingham
Field Dalling	E. Raynham	Lt. Snoring	Wiveton

6. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) **Public Analyst.** Dr. Eric C. Wood, PH.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.

PART III. (Medical Statistics).

Table 1. General Statistics.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	88,818
Estimated Resident Population			...	...	17,990
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£68,315
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate			...	...	£276

Table 2. Live Births.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...		157	146	303
Illegitimate	...		12	1	13
Total	...	...	169	147	316

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population 17.55

Table 3. Still Births.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...		1	1	2
Illegitimate	...		—	—	—
Total	...	...	1	1	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 per
estimated Resident Population11

Table 4. Deaths (all ages).

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
			102	118	220

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population 12.78

Table 5. Infant Mortality. (Deaths of Infants under One year).

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...		4	4	8
Illegitimate	...		2	—	2
Total	...	...	6	4	10

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 31.6

Table 6. Cause of Death of Infants under One Year.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
31. Premature Birth	2	—	2
22. Bronco Pneumonia	—	2	2
19. Heart Disease	1	—	1
18. Intercranial Vasular Lesions	—	1	1
32. Meningomyelocele	—	1	1
Inward Transfers (causes unknown)	3	—	3
Total	6	4	10

Table 7. Cause of Total Deaths.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	3	4
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	2	2
9. Influenza	2	2	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
15. Cancer of breast	—	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	13	24
17. Diabetes	1	2	3
18. Intercranial vascular lesions	11	15	26
19. Heart diseases	34	34	68
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	6	8
21. Bronchitis	3	2	5
22. Pneumonia	2	4	6
23. Other resp. dis.	2	1	3
26. Appendicitis	—	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	—	1	1
28. Nephritis	3	2	5
31. Premature birth	4	—	4
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infant diseases	3	3	6
33. Suicide	3	1	4
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	—	3
35. Other violent causes	1	4	5
36. All other causes	13	15	28
Total	102	118	220

Table 8. Deaths according to Ages.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	...	7	4	11
1 and under 5	...	...	2	3	5
5 " " 10	...	...	—	1	1
10 " " 20	...	...	—	—	—
20 " " 30	...	...	1	—	1
30 " " 40	...	...	1	3	4
40 " " 50	...	...	4	4	8
50 " " 60	...	...	3	9	12
60 " " 70	...	...	19	20	39
70 " " 80	...	...	27	29	56
80 " " 90	...	...	28	31	59
90 " " 100	...	...	5	6	11
Inward Transfers (add)			5	8	13
Total	...	...	102	118	220

Table 9. Cancer.

The following table shows the incidence of cancer deaths during the past 5 years :—

			1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Males	...	...	11	17	20	16	6
Females	...	...	13	17	12	18	9
Total	...	...	24	34	32	34	15

Table 10. Summary of Births and Deaths Rates.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Live Births	16.8	18.2	22.7	19.4	17.55
Still Births	0.52	0.58	0.58	0.4	0.11
Crude Deaths	11.7	12.8	14.16	12.5	12.78
Infant Mortality	37.6	32.1	17.95	11.8	31.6

Table 11. Summary of Vital Statistics.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Population	17,220	18,250	17,160	17,550	17,990
Live Births	292	246	390	340	316
Still Births	9	8	10	7	2
Infant Mortality	11	8	7	4	10
Crude Deaths	202	203	243	219	220

Table 12. Births Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

			England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	Walsingham Rural District.
			Rates per 1000 Population.			
BIRTHS :						
Live	...	...	16.7 (a)	18.7	18.0	17.55
Still	...	...	0.39 (a)	.47	.40	.11
DEATHS :						
All causes	...	...	11.7 (a)	12.5	11.6	12.78
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			.00	.00	.00	.00
Whooping Cough	...		.01	.02	.01	.00
Diphtheria	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	.45	.52	.42	.22
Influenza	...	...	.15	.15	.14	.22
Smallpox	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Acute Pollomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...		.01	.02	.02	.00
Pneumonia	...	...	.51	.56	.49	.33
NOTIFICATIONS :						
Typhoid Fever	...		.01	.01	.01	.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...		.01	.02	.01	.00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...		.02	.03	.02	.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.77
Whooping Cough	...		2.39	2.44	2.39	.61
Diphtheria	...	...	.04	.05	.04	.00
Erysipelas	...	...	.19	.20	.19	.20
Smallpox	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Measles	...	...	8.95	8.91	9.18	10.40
Pneumonia	...	...	.80	.91	.65	.44
Acute Pollomyelitis	...		.13	.13	.12	.00
Acute Polioencephalitis			.01	.10	.02	.00
Food Poisoning	...		.14	.16	.14	.06
			Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
DEATHS :						
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	32 (b)	37	30	10
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...		3.0	3.8	2.4	.00
			Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)			
NOTIFICATIONS :						
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	6.31	8.14	5.30	.00

Table 13. Infectious Diseases. (According to Age Group).

	<i>Under</i>												<i>Age un-</i>
	<i>One</i>	<i>1-</i>	<i>2-</i>	<i>3-</i>	<i>4-</i>	<i>5-</i>	<i>10-</i>	<i>15-</i>	<i>20-</i>	<i>35-</i>	<i>45-</i>	<i>65-</i>	<i>known</i>
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	6	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever...	—	—	—	2	2	20	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	2	3	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Ophtalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorium	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	2	3	24	4	1	13	2	3	3	1

Table 14. Measles and Whooping Cough.

				1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Measles ...	...			106	82	144	118	7
Whooping Cough		...		4	45	32	82	11
Total	...	...		110	127	176	200	18

Table 15. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases during 1949).

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0 -	—	—	—	—
5 -	—	1	—	—
15 -	1	1	—	—
25 -	2	1	—	—
35 -	2	—	—	—
45 -	—	—	—	1
55 -	—	—	—	—
65 -	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	1	—	—	—
Total	6	3	—	1
Totals	9		1	
Grand Total	10			

Table 16. Tuberculosis. (Number of Cases on T.B. Register end 1949).

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	...		28	16	44
Non-Pulmonary	...		5	5	10
Total	...	...	33	21	54

Table 17. (Details of new cases for last five years).

			1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Pulmonary	...	M.	5	5	8	6	6
	...	F.	3	6	7	8	3
Non-Pulmonary		M.	5	2	3	1	0
	...	F.	3	2	3	1	1
Total	...		16	15	21	16	10

Table 18. Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in Area No. 8, comprising Walsingham and Docking R.D.C.'s. and Hunstanton and Wells U.D.C.'s for the year ended 31st December, 1949:—

		<i>Under School Age</i>	<i>School Age</i>	<i>Total</i>
Numbers Immunised	...	1,827	4,426	6,253
Estimated Population	...	3,680	5,504	9,184
Percentage Immunised		50%	80%	68%

PART IV.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1949.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is my Report for the year 1949.

1. GENERAL.

It has been an uneventful year, not one new water main has been laid nor one length of sewer put down. New housing under the restricted programmes permitted for both Council and private builders alike has done little to lighten the hardship of people in the District who live in insanitary, overcrowded and out-worn houses.

Some small administrative progress has been made, a Public Inquiry into the proposed Walsingham Sewerage Scheme being held on March 24th, 1949, and approval of the scheme has been signified.

In November of this year a final report on the Hobhouse Rural Survey in the district was made and is quoted at length under "Housing."

The transfer of Building Bye-law work to my department last year has entailed much additional work especially in the East of the District where a noteworthy change of ownership of a large estate has resulted in the repair and improvement of numerous properties costing many thousands of pounds. This additional work is welcomed, however, because your Sanitary Officers feel that in supervising the construction of the building work at the outset they are able to prevent much of the inferior building which would result in trouble fifty years or less hence.

A hope expressed in 1948 has been fulfilled. A grants in aid scheme for property owners in the Housing Act, 1949, came into force this year but when one considers the sixteen sanitary conditions which the reconditioned house must fulfil it is easy to see that bringing the average Norfolk cottage up to that standard, even when the maximum grant of £300 is made, will be beyond the financial limits of all but the richest landlords.

Together with the constant encouragement of the Medical Officer of Health I have enjoyed the loyal support of my technical and clerical colleagues throughout the year. The area is a large one for two qualified officers to cover and we hope in the near future this aspect of our difficulties may be righted.

There follows now in more detail notes upon the various aspects of our work.

2. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

Public Health Acts.					
Initial inspections	...	...	...	...	364
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	308
Schools inspected	...	...	...	...	4
Cinemas—Provision of escape from fire	...	...	...	...	1
Pleasure boats	...	...	...	...	3
Council Buildings.					
Maintenance, repair or re-building visits	...	...	...	...	16
District Scavenging.					
Visits	...	...	...	...	287
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	85
Infectious Diseases.					
Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	41
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	18
Sewerage.					
Sewage Plant Inspections	...	...	...	...	79
Pumping Station inspections	...	...	...	...	26
Ditches inspected	...	...	...	...	25
Public Sewers inspected	...	...	...	...	54
Building Control.					
Visits	...	...	...	...	70
Building Bye-laws.					
Visits	...	...	...	...	437
Food and Drugs Acts.					
Food premises inspected	...	...	...	...	74
Visits re. manufacture and sale of Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	36
Visits to Milk Producers' premises and to Dairies	...	...	...	...	41
Visits to Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	4
Visits to Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	10
Housing Acts. Houses Inspected:—					
(a) Under Hobhouse Survey	...	...	...	824	
(b) Other House inspections	...	...	...	81	
(c) Visits re. overcrowding, Council house applications, etc.	...	...	...	39	944
Inspections under Factory Acts.					
Factories with power	...	...	...	12	
Factories without power	...	...	...	4	
Outworkers visited	...	...	...	2	18

Petroleum Acts.

Petrol installations inspected and tested	...	13
Miscellaneous visits	... ..	149
	Total	<hr/> 3,107 <hr/>

Notices Served.

Informal notices under Public Health Acts (nuisances, dangerous buildings, unsatisfactory water supplies, etc.)	... ..	123
Informal notices under Public Health and Housing Acts for repair of dwellings	... ..	252
Informal notices under Food and Drugs Act	... ..	15
Informal notices under Factories Act	... ..	4
Informal notices under Milk & Dairies Regulations		16
Informal notices under Rats & Mice Destruction Act	... ..	17
		<hr/> 427 <hr/>

Reminding notices in connection with above	...	41
Notices under Building Bye-laws	... ..	130
Notices requiring street numbering	... ..	746

Excluding street numbering notices almost seventeen hundred letters and notices were dispatched from the office.

Formal Notices.

Under Public Health Acts	... ..	3
Under Housing Acts	... ..	3
		<hr/> 6 <hr/>

3. HOUSING — HOBHOUSE SURVEY.

The Hobhouse Survey of Rural Housing in the District took from 1946 to 1949 to complete with a year's break in 1947. Each house was surveyed though not all in detail. Details of water supply and sewage disposal were gathered at each house and have been of immense value in connection with the formation of district scavenging, water and sewerage schemes.

Each house was categorised as follows :—

Class I. In all respects fit.

Class II. Fit but for minor defects.

Class III. Houses with major structural defects.

Class V. Unfit for human habitation and repair at reasonable expense and recommended for demolition.

It will be readily understood that because the Survey was by nature a preliminary one the detailed survey necessary for your officers to recommend a house for demolition under the Housing Act was not made. It may well be also that when Class 3 houses are reviewed some may have deteriorated into Class 5 or some by reconditioning become Class 1 houses. Thus the totals under the various categories are fluctuating totals.

The following figures resulted :—

Total habitable dwellings	...	...	...	5608
Total dwellings in Category I	...	...	...	1523
Total dwellings in Category II	...	...	...	1487
Total dwellings in Category III	...	...	...	1949
Total dwellings in Category V	...	...	...	649
Houses without drainage or with unsatisfactory drainage	...	...	...	2535
Houses with Pail Closet or Vaults	...	...	...	3667
Houses served by Shallow Wells	...	...	...	3573

As a result of the Survey a composite picture of the typical low category (3/5 or 5) house in the District was obtained and is as follows :—

“Accommodation is usually a living room-cum-scellery (or this may be a small lean-to scullery with or without copper) and usually a “front room” reserved for Sunday or holiday use. Neither of these rooms often exceed 12 ft. x 12 ft. Above, by way of a narrow unlighted staircase, are two or three bedrooms compassed in the average 12 ft. x 24 ft. available. Probably the back-bedroom has a sloping ceiling to about 3 ft. on the outside wall. Inevitably the back bedroom is grossly under-lighted and under-ventilated and very often this applies to all rooms in the house. Inter communication of rooms is usual.

Local red brick forms the chief building material inland with beach stone predominating on the coast. Foundations, if any, consist of large head-size flints and it is remarkable how very little actual disintegration of the main structure may be found. Once the weather gets into the coastal beach stone or the inland flint faced building, however, “Caveat emptor.”

A combination of brick and flint is common. Without a damp-course, the house usually shows 2 ft. 6 ins. to 3 ft. 6 ins. rising dampness.

The ground floor of brick is likewise not resistant to damp and is usually badly worn.

The roof is pantile, unlined, and snow yearly brings a crisis with baths and pails in full use.

Sometimes there is rainwater guttering, often it is leaky or absent and the walls suffer.

There is usually a cooking stove in the living room and often these are tributes to the ingenuity of the tenants, in patching up the outworn parts of the stove.

Water is in the best cases from a pump over a shallow well in the back yard and in the worst cases from a shallow well with windlass anything from 100-200 yards up to the road.

Lighting is often by oil lamps but this is gradually giving way to electricity with the great benefits that service brings.

Food is left in a cupboard under the stairs.

The yard at the rear is unpaved.

Domestic slops are thrown on the garden, and

the bath is galvanised, moveable, and has to be used in the living room or a cold scullery.

Rubbish is kept in a wooden, cardboard, or tin container open to the weather and the flies.

The Closet is somewhere at the rear, often at the end of the garden. It is a pail closet, often dilapidated, certainly underlighted and usually over-ventilated."

The Council's Hobhouse Report evinced some interest in the local and national press, articles appearing in the "Municipal Engineer" illustrated by photographs of typical houses, "The Municipal Journal" and "Eastern Daily Press."

ALLOCATION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

Reports have been submitted by the Medical Officer and myself at every letting of houses this year, with great success. One unfortunate aspect is that although the Housing Manager sends housing application forms to the occupiers of all insanitary dwellings in the village where the letting is to take place, relatively few apply for council houses. The plea of the excessive burden of the rents of the post-war houses is often heard and when one considers the average weekly rent of 2/6d./3/6d. for their present dwellings it can be seen that some considerable change in the family budget has to be made. There is, however, a Rent Rebate Scheme to which the would-be tenant's attention is drawn; added to this it is common in my experience to find some of those people who are unwilling to make the effort of moving to a modern house for their children's sake indulging in luxuries unusual in other families.

It seems probable that this group of people will not be dealt with until compulsory re-housing, after slum clearance, returns and their slum dwellings must remain with us till then.

DEMOLITIONS.

The Council made four demolition orders during the year upon dangerous or otherwise unsuitable dwellings and in addition four formerly condemned houses have been demolished.

RE-VISITS.

With the Survey in progress not much re-visiting was done but test villages surveyed showed between 45% and 50% repair notices had been complied with. A concentration on housing re-visits has been started in 1950 since it is considered that with the slow rate of re-housing the most important aspect of our work is ensuring repairs to existing houses.

4. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Great Walsingham.

The flow through this works is confined to sewage from the 17 families squatting at North Creak Airfield and only irregular maintenance is made. Two of the sludge drying beds are used for the composting of night-soil with straw, an excellent manure resulting.

Melton Constable.

Following my report, with suggested alternative means of alleviating flooding at Burgh Road, the Committee instructed their consultants to prepare a scheme. The plan involves the construction of an overflow sewer in the Briston Road discharging into the Burgh Beck at times of severe storm.

The sewage works are working to capacity and no additional connections should now be permitted.

Fakenham.

The installation of electric motors at the Pumping Station has proved a success and no mechanical breakdowns have occurred during the year.

At the Sewage Farm a change of management has been made. A general improvement in husbandry is noticeable and a tidying up process by Council's workmen to the sewage tanks and beds, aided by bull-dozing has given the area an improved appearance.

Undoubtedly this land is heavily overloaded and with the sharp slope of the land, plus the volume of sewage (6,000—7,000 gallons per hour) it requires constant supervision to stop the sewage finding its way to the lower part of the field and the highway. A system of part of the land being left fallow each year would perhaps ease the problem.

One cannot believe that this works was ever intended for the volume of sewage now dealt with and the transfer of the works to the proposed site at Norton is eagerly awaited.

Sculthorpe Airfield.

A report on the unsatisfactory means of effluent disposal from works serving this airfield was forwarded to the Ministry of Health, so far without result.

5. WATER SUPPLIES—OTHER THAN MAIN SUPPLIES.

Although the Council had to cart water at the peak shortage to twenty points for the supply of 76 dwellings on a weekly or bi-weekly delivery the shortage was not as great as anticipated.

Messrs. Potter Brothers of Dereham, using a converted petrol tanker, gave excellent and unfailing service in getting water to the unfortunate people with dry wells and it was common to see their carrier on the roads up to 8 p.m. on winter evenings.

No noticeable recovery of the affected wells had occurred by the year's end. The Common Place well, Little Walsingham, which has given consistently a pure supply was deepened three feet to enhance the supply.

This drought and the previous evidence presented to the Council of polluted water supplies emphasises the urgent need of a piped supply in the district.

6. DISTRICT SCAVENGING.

An additional Cesspool Emptier to give a night-soil collection to the remaining third of the District was ordered in April but at the year's end had not arrived.

The Council successfully tendered for a refuse collection contract for Sculthorpe R.A.F. Station and a bi-weekly service is given.

A refuse collection is carried out throughout the district.

The Council gained Sixth place with a £200 prize in a Salvage Collection Competition throughout England and Wales.

7. BUILDING LICENSING.

Licences were issued as below during the year :—

<i>Type of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Licences</i>	<i>Authorised Expenditure</i>		
		£	s.	d.
New dwellings 	15	25,909	12	3
Conversion to form new dwellings	3	2,260	0	0
Maintenance and repair licences	82	41,759	14	3

8. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Food preparing rooms have received especial attention and food handlers have been reminded of their duty towards the public by way of personal hygiene. The proposed Bye-laws should greatly extend our activities in this direction.

All vendors of Ice-cream in the district have provided their vehicles with supplies of hot and cold water at my suggestion.

The following food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year :—

MEAT.

Home-killed.

Beef ...	...	...	236 lbs.
Lamb ...	...	...	3½ lbs.

Imported and canned.

Corned beef ...	...	...	35¼ lbs.
Other meat ...	...	...	5 lbs.

OTHER FOODS	1,084 lbs.
------------------------	-----	-----	------------

9. MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM FIRE.

The Council has invited the aid of the Norfolk County Fire Service under this heading and I am accompanied by an officer expert in fire precautions when surveying places of public resort for means of escape from fire.

Representatives of the Highway Authority, Cinema Company, Planning Committee and the Council met in January at the Central Cinema, Fakenham, to discuss the construction of an external fire escape. To date there is still no fire escape from the balcony of this building. Considerable improvement has been made however, by the widening of the internal staircase at the Council's request.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. EAGLE,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PART V.

Report of Water Engineer.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the Waterworks undertaking for the year ending 31st October, 1949.

1. WATER SUPPLY FAKENHAM AND HEMPTON.

Water pumped during 1949 amounted to 28,506,000 gallons a drop of 3,691,000 gallons over 1948.

The number of premises connected to the piped supply is 1,116 an increase of 12 during the past year.

2. PARISH OF LITTLE SNORING.

44 properties in this village are now connected to the piped water supply, in addition, some 98 families on the various R.A.F. Sites are receiving a supply from standpipes, as conversion of Nissen Huts proceeds a piped water supply will be connected to taps indoors and all standpipes done away with.

3. PARISH OF BLAKENEY.

Only 42 premises are connected to this piped supply, a comprehensive scheme to supply mains water to this parish is due to commence during 1950.

4. WEST RAYNHAM VILLAGE.

Owing to water shortage, three standpipes have been erected in this village, the supply being taken from the Housing Estate High Level Tank.

5. NORTH CREAKE AIR STATION.

This pumping plant, has been controlled by the Water Department to supply Farm premises and a number of squatters on this Airfield.

6. PRESENT SITUATION.

The Councils Main Water Supply to the parishes of Fakenham and Hempton has been operating under increasing difficulties, due to lessened yield from the well at Fakenham.

The winter 1948-9 was not so severe, but the summer was dryer than the previous year, active and effective waste water inspection is maintained throughout the area of piped supply, attention is paid to re-washing taps, and adjustment of ball-valves, which all help in the elimination of waste water, meters are withdrawn for cleaning and overhaul from time to time.

7. WATER ANALYST'S REPORT.

This supply is chlorinated before being pumped into high level reservoir, the water has no plumbo-solvent action.

Regular bacteriological samples were taken from the Fakenham and Hempton Public Water Supply, and all these were satisfactory, whilst samples submitted to the Public Analyst resulted as follows.

See attached Certificate.

8. POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT.

It is anticipated that work on the Regional Water Scheme will commence in the spring of 1950.

9. CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I may say that the supply has been maintained throughout the year with only a few minor localised disruptions, which were attended to at the earliest opportunity.

I am, Your Obedient Servant,

E. HAYMAN, District Water Engineer.

Appendix A.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

REPORT ON WATER SAMPLE.

Copy sent to: The M.O.H., Norfolk.

Authority or Sender: The Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Walsingham R.D.C.,

Lab. Ref. No.: N. 990. Fakenham.

Nature of Sample: Water from deep bore—Fakenham Main Supply. Sample taken from tap over basin—Baron's Hall, Fakenham.

Date and hour of collection: 6.12.49, 10.45 a.m.

Date and hour of arrival: 6.12.49.

Date and hour of examination: 6.12.49.

Probable number of coliform bacilli,
MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.

Date of Report: 8th December, 1949.

Remarks:—

This sample is highly satisfactory.

Appendix B.

W. Lincolne Sutton, F.R.I.C.,

Eric C. Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.

Norfolk and Suffolk County Laboratories,

Clement Court,

Redwell Street,

Norwich.

No. 2105. Book A.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from: Walsingham R.D.C., per Inspector
A. H. Eagle.

Mark or Seal: "Fakenham Main Supply, taken from tap at
37, Bridge Street, Fakenham. 12 noon, 12.10.49."

Physical Characteristics: Clear.

<i>Results of Analysis:</i>			<i>Grains per Gallon.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0014
Combined Chlorine	...	...	2.5
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.28
Nitrites	...	...	Nil
Total Solids in Solution	...	...
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	Nil
Poisonous Metals	...	...
Hardness before boiling (total)	...	...	26°
Hardness after boiling (Permanent)	...	...

Opinion:—

This is a pure and wholesome water, of high organic quality,
and very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD,
Eric C. Wood.

Appendix C.

(Standard for improved dwellings).

A dwelling provided or improved with assistance under Part II of the Housing Act, 1949, must :—

- (i) be in all respects dry.
- (ii) be in good state of repair.
- (iii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated.
- (iv) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on for all purposes inside the dwelling.
- (v) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes
- (vi) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water-closet.
- (vii) have a fixed bath preferably in a separate room.
- (viii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water.
- (ix) be provided with facilities for domestic washing including a copper, preferably in a separate room.
- (x) have a proper drainage system.
- (xi) be provided with adequate points for artificial lighting in each room.
- (xii) be provided with adequate facilities for heating each habitable room.
- (xiii) have satisfactory facilities for preparing and cooking food.
- (xiv) have a well-ventilated larder or food store.
- (xv) have a proper provision for the storage of fuel.
- (xvi) have a satisfactory surfaced path to outbuildings and convenient access from a street to the back door.

